

Virginia Department of Correctional Education
James Monroe Building, 7th Floor
101 North 14th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219-3678



Upcoming Events:

Smyth High School Graduation	June 11
Pulaski Graduation	June 15
Nottoway Graduation	June 16
Blandford High School Graduation	June 18
Cedar Mountain High School Graduation	June 18
Crockford High School Graduation	June 18
Mastin High School Graduation	June 22
Fluvanna Graduation	June 25
Halifax Graduation	June 25
Outstanding Employee Luncheon	June 25

The Department of Correctional Education does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, disabilities, or national origin in employment or in its educational programs or activities.



JROTC Shows Its Colors at the Governor’s Mansion

The Color Guard at John Henry Smyth High School recently performed during ceremonies at the Governor’s Mansion. The May 5th ceremonies honored Virginia’s top employees during Public Service Week. Four JROTC cadets presented colors as **Secretary of Education Belle Whelan** presided.

This was not the first time the JROTC has presented outside the Hanover Juvenile Correctional Center. In recent years the cadets have presented at parades in the Town of Ashland and at the annual DCE Convocation.

The Department of Human Resources Management requested DCE’s JROTC Color Guard. “We certainly owe a debt of gratitude to DHRM,” said **DCE Superintendent Walter McFarlane**. “These students performed exceptionally well. This was a very positive experience for them, and one they would not have had without the invitation from DHRM.”



Major (Retired) Wendell Quash led the cadets. Major Quash was selected as a DCE Agency Star for 2004.

Major Quash’s students posted a 99.9 percent passing rate on their annual inspection, the most recent conducted by the U.S. Army. This was the highest rating of the 22 public high schools inspected by the 4th Brigade. For this achievement, the JROTC Unit received an award for “Honor with Distinction.” This is the second time the Army has given this honor to the unit. Smyth’s JROTC unit earned “Honor with Distinction” in 2000 when it posted a similarly high inspection score.



Carole Hannigan of Chesterfield Women’s Diversion Center was one of several DCE Employees honored during Public Service Week.
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CEA Conference July 4 – 7 in Baltimore

Submitted by **Steve L. Farrell**

The Correctional Education Association will hold its annual international conference in Baltimore, Maryland, at the Renaissance Harborplace Hotel from July 4 – 7, 2004. This year’s theme will be “Embrace the Legacy: Our Commitment – Their Future.”

At the conference this year, Ashland University in Ashland, Ohio, will offer continuing education certification and graduate education credit for two semester hours to all participants who register for the course and meet the requirements of the university. Information related to the fees for these credits and conference and hotel registration information can be found on the CEA website at www.ceanational.org.

Anyone with questions may contact the Region II Virginia CEA State Directors: **Faye Walker** at (804) 537-5602 and **Steve Farrell** at (434) 658-4174, ext. 4144.

Join In! Professional Information for DCE Employees

Virginia Association of Correctional Educators (VACE)

The Virginia Association of Correctional Educators is a professional organization serving correctional educators to include teachers, instructional assistants, guidance counselors, principals, assistant principals, correctional officers, and upper level administrators from various entities including DCE, detention homes and regional and local jails.

Membership: **Janeen Brown**, 101 North 14th Street, James Monroe Building, 7th Floor, Richmond, VA 23219; (804) 371-8602; jabrown@dce.state.va.us

Correctional Education Association (CEA)

The Correctional Education Association, founded in 1945, is a non-profit, professional association serving educators and administrators who provide services to students in correctional settings.

Website: www.ceanational.com
Membership: 4380 Forbes Blvd., Lanham, MD 20706 or fax to CEA at 1-301-918-1846

Virginia Association for Adult and Continuing Education (VAACE)

VAACE is an organization for adult and continuing education professionals who work in diverse organizational and agency settings. It is dedicated to the professional growth and development of its members.

Website: www.aelweb.vcu.edu/vaace/vaace.htm
Membership: **Debbie Bergtholdt** 2 Edith Court, Hampton, VA 23669; Bus: 757-833-2259 dbergtholdt@ycsd.york.va.us

Virginia Correctional Association (VCA)

VCA is an official state chapter of the American Correctional Association. When you join VCA, you receive a dual membership in the American Correctional Association. ACA is a nationally recognized leader for corrections and criminal justice employees.

Website: www.aca.org
Membership: **Morris Dews**, 101 North 14th Street, James Monroe Building 7th Floor, Richmond, VA 23219; (804) 371-4286; medews@dce.state.va.us 1-800-ACAJOIN

Hutchinson Elected to Wise County School Board

Mark Hutchinson, DCE Assistant Principal at Red Onion and Wallens Ridge state prisons, recently began serving a four-year term on the Wise County School Board. His district contains the towns of Appalachia and Pound. In his district, there are two high schools, one middle school, and two elementary schools.

Before joining DCE, Mr. Hutchinson worked as a teacher, coach, and assistant principal in Wise for approximately fourteen years.

“It has been a challenging experience so far, and we are faced with similar problems all public school boards face throughout the county especially regarding the budget. I consider the most important part of the job to be making sure that my every decision is a matter of what is best for the children.”

“I believe that serving on the school board has helped me with making educational connections that could be advantageous for me as a school administrator for DCE.”

DCE Receives Special Award

To honor its contribution to the 2003 Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign, DCE received a special award from the CVC Advisory Council.

The certificate displayed at the central office receptionist’s desk in Richmond reads in part, “presented to the employees of the Virginia Department of Correctional Education in recognition of an explosive increase of 38 percent in participation for the 2003 Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign.”

DHRM Director to Speak at DCE’s Awards Luncheon

Sara Redding Wilson, director of the Virginia Department of Human Resources Management, has agreed to serve as keynote speaker during DCE’s annual Outstanding Employee Luncheon. Ms. Wilson was appointed to her current position in April 1998 and was re-appointed by Governor Mark Warner in 2002. During her tenure, she has been instrumental in the re-engineering of human resource programs statewide, including the implementation of the first revision of the state’s compensation program in 40 years and developing a highly regarded strategic planning process for the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Outstanding Employee Luncheon will be held June 25 at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

Contribute to DCE Today

Something great happening at your school? Contact **Win Sisson** and let everybody know! Story ideas, pictures and written submissions for the Summer Edition of DCE Today are being accepted now.

Please email gwsisson@dce.state.va.us or call, (804) 786-3379. Remember, certain photographs require signed releases before DCE can use them in its newsletter or on the World Wide Web.

DCE Today

A public information service of the

Virginia Department of Correctional Education
James Monroe Building, 7th Floor
101 North 14th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219-3678

Walter A. McFarlane, Superintendent

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Cedar Mountain Student Named Poetry Semi-Finalist

A Cedar Mountain High School 10th grader has been selected as a semi-finalist in the Famous Poets Society contest.

In honor of her achievement, the poem will be published in the “Great Poems of the Western World” anthology.

When the student first arrived at Cedar Mountain High School, she was very hesitant in completing any writing assignments. With encouragement from her

teachers and some extra tutoring by staff, she has become a very proficient writer, according to one of her

teachers, **Lora Rozeboom**. Staff suggested that she enter the poem “Tracing” in the contest. The staff at CMHS is very happy for the student and excited about her achievements, Rozeboom added.

The student has also entered her poem “Shallow” in the poetry.com contest. She is now waiting to hear if her poem “Alluring” is a winner in another contest hosted by a Culpeper-area newspaper, The Free-Lance Star.



Comings & Goings: DCE People on the Move



Coming: **Morris Dews** recently joined DCE’s Career & Technical Education’s Central Office Staff.

Going: **Karen Lux**, left, is joined by **Brenda McCoy** as they mark Karen’s departure for the Department of Education. **Julie Christmas**, formerly of the Department of Corrections, has joined DCE’s Finance Division.



Fluvanna Partners with Lions Club

Submitted by **Bonnie Cutright**

The Fluvanna DCE Optical class has partnered with the West Richmond Breakfast Lions Club to clean, align and categorize the used eyewear donated to the Lions Club.

As DCE students read the lens powers, they receive the benefits

of repeated use of the lensometer (a device for determining lens power) and extensive exposure to the many styles of lenses and frames available. This gives them an understanding of the effects of material and treatments on prescriptions. Identification of

lenses and the ability of students to use the lensometer increased significantly after their work with the Lions Club’s frames. Ultimately, the donated eyewear will be repaired and refurbished and distributed in the Appalachian region.

DCE’s Newest Board Member: Leslie Speight

Leslie Speight brings to DCE a rich background encompassing both military and educational pursuits.

At present he serves as a Petersburg High School JROTC instructor and was appointed recently by Governor Mark Warner as a Military Aides-de-Camp. In this role he serves as an official military advisor to the Governor. For the past 14-plus years ISG Speight advised JROTC students in Petersburg. He retired from the U.S. Army in 1989. He served in Vietnam and was awarded the Purple Heart. He earned his bachelor and masters degrees from Madison University in Gulfport, Mississippi. ISG Speight has also been named the Walt Disney Teacher of the Year and is listed

in Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers.

“I am quite pleased to be a part of Virginia’s correctional education efforts,” he said. “I am particularly impressed with the Department of Correctional Education’s outstanding JROTC program. I can tell you that JROTC can provide a vital part of any person’s educational experience because it teaches discipline and leadership skills, and we know from our experience in Petersburg that JROTC promotes SOL (Standards of Learning) scores. JROTC promotes abilities in math, reading, communications, critical thinking and physical tasks.”

ISG Speight said he looks forward to helping the agency

advance. “I bring some unique experiences and knowledge, and I am grateful for the opportunity to join in such an important mission.”



In 1994 Leslie Speight served as a military advisor for the major motion picture, “Major Payne,” starring Damon Wayans.

April 2004 Staff Development Week

Submitted by **Mike Duke**

DCE’s April Staff Development was attended by 463 individuals. This represents 72% of DCE’s full time employees. Forty-seven sessions were held at the James Monroe Building as well as at New Horizons Computer Learning Centers.

This Staff Development was particularly large due to the number of special classes offered. DCE had classes for Special Education teachers, for members of the schools’ crisis teams, and of course AESIS and eVA training. The next Staff Development Week begins August 16 with the VACE conference occurring August 18-20. Classes will only be held in Richmond on the 16th & 17th with the rest of training conducted at the VACE conference.

As always, if you wish to suggest a topic or if you are interested in presenting, please contact Mike Duke at 804-786-7749.



Mentor Training Begins

Bon Air Mentoring program (BAM) has begun training its first set of mentors for young men incarcerated at the Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center. A mentor is an adult who, along with parents, provides young people with support, counsel, friendship, reinforcement and constructive example.

This program is a pilot of DCE and the Department of Juvenile Justice. Recruitment will soon begin for more mentors. To learn more about BAM call: (804) 786-3379 or gwsisson@dce.state.va.us.



Hank Millward, right, principal of Mastin High School, speaks to BAM mentors as Wayne Bennett listens.

DCE Trains Youth Schools Crisis Management/Response Team

Submitted by James Turner

The Youth Schools Crisis Management/Response Team is an agency-based program that focuses on instructing our staff and educators on a variety of crisis issues facing our institutional youth schools. The team's goal is to design crisis management procedures that effectively address school safety crises, and also affect the health, safety, and welfare of our educators, staff, and students. They also provide helpful up-to-date information, resources, and

group activity, as such activity relates to the DCE youth school setting. training about effective intervention, prevention, response, and strategies. Representatives from each youth school comprise the team's membership and serve as School Coordinators. During their 2nd training session, in the Monroe building 7th Floor conference room, April 30th, 2004, topics discussed were:



Leonard Hopkins of Blandford High School, and Shelia Kelly of Crockford High School examine crisis management materials.

- Overview of the Crisis Management/Response Team
- Current Crises
- Developing an effective Crisis Management/Response Team
- Juvenile Gangs
- SOP – 238
- Zero Tolerance Policy
- Gang Signs
- Basic Skills – Hostage Situations **Captain David Rogers**, Department of Corrections was the presenter.



DCE's modular building project involves taking on much more than just teaching. There are many logistical considerations at the site where the units are being built, and at the site where they are going. The principals at both sites must work closely with DOC officials and his or her own staff. This involves working out the details of bringing in a constant supply of materials, bringing in contractors, working with DCE central office officials to coordinate purchasing, inspections, and schedules, and resolving a host of issues that develop in relation to the project. This must all be handled on top of running the school.

DCE recently completed its fifth modular building, this one erected at Lunenburg Correctional Center and named in honor of the late Curtis T. Wilkerson, who worked for many years at that facility as the school's principal. The structure was built at St. Brides Correctional Center in Chesapeake and delivered in four parts to its destination in Victoria. These various projects have tapped the skills of as many as ten different vocational teachers and students.



Dignitaries Cut the Ribbon on Modular Team's Success



Dedicating the Curtis T. Wilkerson Horticulture Building: DCE unwrapped its fifth modular building in April. For their efforts, employees at Lunenburg and St. Bridges were named the agency's star team. Dedicated to a former principal at Lunenburg Correctional Center. Cutting the ribbons on Lunenburg Correctional Center's new

horticulture building are from left: **Warden Carole Wallace**, **Chief Deputy Secretary of Public Safety Robert Crouch**, **Mrs. Curtis T. Wilkerson**, **DCE Superintendent Walter McFarlane**.

Major (Ret.) Wendell Quash was recently named the Virginia Department of Correctional Education (DCE) Agency Star for 2004. DCE has one of the best JROTC programs in the nation. The JROTC program at Smyth High School at Hanover Juvenile Correctional Center routinely receives honors for excellence; its students rack up individual honors. A key figure in this program's success is Major Quash. He has been at the helm of the JROTC program since its inception in September 1995.

In 2002, Major Quash's students posted a 99.9 percent passing rate on their annual inspection, the most recent conducted by the U.S. Army. This was the highest rating of the 22 public high schools inspected by the 4th Brigade. For this achievement the JROTC Unit received an award for "Honor with Distinction." This is the second time the Army has given this honor to the unit. Smyth's JROTC unit earned "Honor with Distinction" in 2000 when it posted a similarly high inspection score.

Major Quash has overseen the implementation of a top-flight program by tapping existing resources, namely the assistance of neighboring military personnel, especially those involved in other JROTC units. Such connections have helped make the "Camp Cobra," each summer an unqualified display of military skills and expertise. These connections have also allowed JROTC students to participate in community activities including marching in town parades and displaying colors at DCE events.

But perhaps the biggest accomplishment of the JROTC program in the correctional setting is the low rate of recidivism among participants. An evaluation showed that of 62 JROTC participants released during FY 1998-2001, only three, 4.8 percent, were convicted of a new offense.

Major Quash is quick to point to the excellence of his staff and students, but most of all, he enjoys talking about the professional satisfaction he derives from his current endeavors. "This is by far the most rewarding job I have ever had," Quash said. "This is our future. Some of these young men are going to have a great impact on our world. They are intelligent and talented. A couple of my current students are taking Advanced Placement English. One of my former students is currently stationed in Afghanistan. Another is a military policeman at Fort Lee (in Petersburg, Virginia)."



JROTC Stars



DCE's JROTC Color Guard performed flawlessly at the Governor's Mansion during public safety week.

In recognition of the excellence exhibited by Major Quash and his students, the JROTC Color Guard was asked to perform at the Governor's Mansion during ceremonies that honored Virginia's agency stars.



Sergeant Major (Retired) **Bernard Llyod** helps a DCE JROTC cadet prepare for opening ceremonies.

DCE Receives Grant for Veteran's History Project

Submitted by **Colleen McCabe**

DCE recently earned the distinction of being one of 15 agencies across Virginia to receive a "Learn and Serve Virginia" grant. The grant will supplement an educational program announced by **Governor Mark Warner**, *Virginians at War*. The Learn & Serve Virginia Grant is designed to honor and validate the sacrifices of the men and women who fought in wars since World War II. While the total cash amount is only \$4,450, these funds will support a significant activity especially because of a \$16,700 in-kind match.

In February of 2004, Governor Warner announced that the educational program, *Virginians at War*, would be made available to every middle and high school in Virginia. Volume I is presently being distributed. **Mr. Ben Cleary**, one of John H. Smyth's English teachers, had previously requested funding to support a Veterans' History project and thus arose a suitable fit between Governor Warner's support of the study of Virginia's contributions to wars efforts, Mr. Cleary's enthusiasm for just such a project, and the purpose of the Learn & Serve Virginia Grant.

The grant will fund instruction at Smyth High School led by Mr. Cleary. In addition to studying about wars of the last 65 years, one objective is to present students with personalized accounts of the war experience. Another goal is to teach, reinforce, and expand the existing curriculum in the study of civics, government, Virginia & U.S. History, world history, geography, computer & technical skills, English-reading, writing, research and interviewing skills-learn how to record oral histories, and to incorporate this project with the military science curriculum that exists as Smyth's JROTC program. Over 55 Standards of Learning (SOL) objectives will be addressed across eight content area courses.

DCE has partnered with **Mr. Jon Hatfield** of the Virginia War Memorial, **Mr. Charles Gudis**, who facilitates the American Legion Veteran's school visitation project, **Mr. Bill Griffith**, a local filmmaker, and Mr. Cleary who will present a summer elective course that incorporates the SOL content areas mentioned above. Students will interview and film 10 veterans, six of whom are our own DCE teachers, who have served in the wars from WWII through the present Iraqi War. Four other veterans will visit on behalf of the American Legion's educational program. Together, these veterans represent a cross-section of cultures, ages, and military branches. The class will produce broadcast-quality videotapes of these interviews. Tapes will be sent to each DCE middle and high school, Academic Programs Materials Library, the Virginia War Memorial, The Secretary of Public Safety, and The Library of Congress.

"This is a sophisticated project that will undoubtedly generate a sense of pride in the participating students," said DCE's Director of Curriculum and Instruction for Youth, **Dr. Colleen McCabe**. "The Smyth JROTC program will be strengthened, and students will have established a shared learning relationship between them and the community.

"Special thanks goes to **Ms. Cynthia Smith-Williams**, Smyth's acting principal, who lent her full support to this project, and my own two supervisors, **Dr. Patricia Blair** and **Dr. Fannie Page**, as well as Mr. Cleary for his exuberance and dedication to our students," Dr. McCabe added.

Implementation plans are well underway. Initial meetings among the participants have already taken place with the next planning session to take place during the last week of May. Look for updates on this project in future newsletters.

Expressions of Laughter: Superintendent Walter McFarlane, center, shares a laugh with **Secretary of Public Safety John W. Marshall**, right, during the opening of the annual Expressions art show. **Department of Juvenile Justice Director Jerrauld Jones**, left, shares in the moment with a smile. Expressions XII was the twelfth annual installment of the annual arts and crafts sale and one of the agency's most successful ever.



Greg Williams



Greg Williams is a calming force in the midst of a swirling storm. When computer illiterate folks stress about computer malfunctions, Mr. Williams is known as DCE's stress relief. Through quiet competence and diligence in his position as the agency's resident computer expert, he has earned praises throughout the agency.

He is well respected among his peers for his knowledge of computer hardware. He makes sure equipment is properly installed and functioning, and when it isn't he responds quickly and effectively. He brings a helpful, calm approach to his work and soothes many who are less comfortable with computer technology. He is a willing assistant to any field practitioner and very responsive in his communications. He is reliable, dependable and thorough. He troubleshoots problems in the schools, calls vendors. These qualities make him outstanding, but this individual goes above and beyond with his effort. Mr. Williams lost staff in the budget cutbacks, but the students never lost services. This happened because Mr. Williams worked harder and longer to ensure this continuity.

"One phrase I have heard many times from Mr. Williams, "OK I will make it happen." What you never hear from him: gripes and complaints," said DCE's Susan Clair. He has a demanding job but remains pleasant despite the stress. "Without him we would have had a difficult time implementing FastForWord in the youth schools," Ms. Clair added.

Mr. Williams is a quiet, competent professional who faces the complexities of his job, both technical and interpersonal with a self-effacing wit. His supervisor Pat Wilson commented, "Say whatever good things you want about Greg Williams, because it is all true.

Agency Stars

Carole Hannigan



Dr. Carole Hannigan has committed her life to helping others and, in the last 15 years dynamically shaped and re-directed the lives of thousands of men and women incarcerated by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

She joined DCE in 1990 serving as a teacher/counselor. She was a primary engine in the development of a transitional curriculum for the work release program and later for the community corrections diversion and detention program. She used her curriculum design background from her training as well as her counseling expertise in developing these curricula. One of her helpers in designing this curricula, was her student - the late, Kim Hull. Mr. Hull later went on to become a DCE Transitional Instructor and Coordinator. Dr. Hannigan, with Mr. Hull, designed the first DCE transitional curricula for the institutions and for community corrections. She was later on the committee to design and train teachers for the statewide Productive Citizenship Curriculum.

DCE implements the transitional program statewide. "Dr. Hannigan's contribution to the curriculum has had a dramatic and far-reaching influence. In this sense, her contribution to the Commonwealth is inestimable," said her supervisor, Dr. Murray Ellison.

In her current position, Dr. Hannigan has implemented and perfected the transitional program and helped many students to re-evaluate and upgrade their life goals and career plans. One of her other former students at Chesterfield Diversion Center is now her instructional assistant. Another former Chesterfield student is businessman who volunteers at her school as an inspirational speaker. In the fall of 2003 he received the Governor's 2003 award as Volunteer of the Year. Dr. Hannigan will look forward to retirement, along with her husband, Al, on June 30 of 2004.

Murray Ellison



Dr. Murray Ellison has committed his life to improving the lives of others and in the last four years he has made a significant contribution to the Special Olympics.

Dr. Ellison, DCE's Community Corrections Coordinator, began his involvement with Special Olympics activities in 2001. He started small, involving the agency in little way, but his efforts grew. From the very beginning, he was affiliated with the Department of Corrections (DOC) and thus worked collaboratively with DOC personnel, and encouraged such Special Olympics collaborations among DCE and DOC employees statewide.

Later he enlisted the aid of the agency-wide staff advisory council, which has become an almost equal partner in leading the cause for Special Olympics.

Dr. Ellison has involved the agency in an array of Special Olympic activities including the annual Torch Run, a kick-off activity, and the Polar Plunge, a fund-raiser involving swim trunks in icy waters.

Dr. Ellison has also encouraged individual volunteerism for Special Olympics, especially at the signature event in Virginia, the summer games held at the University of Richmond.

Among other things, Dr. Ellison has overseen various fund-raising activities including the sale of hats, shirts, candies and an agency-wide raffle. To support the raffle, he obtained donated items.

For his efforts, this year DCE raised almost \$5,000. However, DOC recognized the important contribution DCE made in their initiative and when presentations were made, the two agencies were honored jointly for a contribution of approximately \$100,000.

The Special Olympics organization also recognized DCE's efforts by giving the agency it prestigious Gold Award, for outstanding contributions.